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# Facts for NORTHEAST COMMITTEEMEN

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## BASIC NEEDS OF AGRICULTURE

### The Need for Increased Income

(1) Unfortunately, there are many people who, upon learning of the great progress of agriculture during the past seven years, have jumped to the conclusion that no serious need remains for increased farm income. Those persons clearly cannot be mindful of the great depth from which the upward march was begun in 1933; and they have no real concept of the existing deficiency in agriculture's participation in the national income...

(2) Some persons seem to feel that the war will result very soon in a substantial increase in farm prices, and that the farm problem will be solved for the time being. But agriculture is not profiting from the war in Europe, and is not likely to profit at any time in the near future. And for some groups of producers, the war has been an economic calamity...

### The Need for Production Adjustment

A reasonable balance between agricultural and industrial production is essential to the welfare of the Nation. In order to attain and preserve such a balance, it is necessary not only to adjust farm production to compensate for the loss of markets for agricultural products but also to counter-balance the greater inherent tendency of agriculture, as compared with industry, to increase production...

### The Need for More Soil Conservation

The welfare of any nation is dependent upon the conservation of its soil resources. History is replete with records of civilizations and governments that have fallen into decay as a result of soil depletion and erosion. Fortunately, we have come to realize before it is too late the danger of abusing and neglecting our soil resources.

--Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, from Statement  
before House Committee on Agriculture, February 15, 1940.

#### NORTHEASTERN FARMERS ON NATIONAL HOOK-UP

County committees from two counties will represent the Northeast Region in the series of radio programs on "Today's Soil for Today and Tomorrow." This series, a part of the Tuesday noon programs of the National Farm and Home Program, has been featuring the soil conservation problems of different localities in the United States and the progress made in correcting these problems. The remaining programs in the series are as follows:

March 26	Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania	Pasture improvement
April 2	Perry county, Alabama	Terracing
April 9	Garza county, Texas	Range-water conservation
April 16	Coos county, New Hampshire	Woodland management
April 23	A North Dakota county	Crop insurance
April 30(tentative)	Secretary Wallace	Conservation - Today and Tomorrow

The time of each program is 12:30 (E.S.T.)

The members of the Susquehanna county committee are A. R. Bush, W. W. Resseguie, and A. J. Patton. The Coos county committee is composed of Ismond Ellingwood, Charles Jackson, and William Galbraith.

#### VERMONT PLANS ITS WORK

A plan of education designed to carry the story of the farm program to farmers, their families, business people, and townfolks, has been prepared by Vermont. Through the cooperation of State, county, and community committeemen, State office people and extension workers, the plan will operate on a continuous, year 'round basis. It involves the use of speakers at meetings, personal contacts, radio talks, news releases, and exhibits.

#### DO YOU GET BRIEFLY SPEAKING

The attention of committeemen is called to the new form of the AAA publication, *Briefly Speaking*. Under the new policy, each issue is being devoted to one particular subject. Issue No. 12, dated December 28, 1939, contained information on the significance of foreign trade to farmers, and the current issue, No. 13, deals with the farmer-businessman relationship. In the new form, the publication is easier to read, contains more illustrated material, and is better adapted to filing for reference use. Committeemen who do not receive the publication should request it through State offices. Suggestions on subject matter for future issues will be welcomed by the Division of Information, AAA, which compiles it as a service to all AAA committeemen.

## WHEAT LOANS BENEFIT PENNSYLVANIA FARMERS

Paul H. Fissel, chairman of the York county (Pa.) agricultural conservation association, reports that in his county, as soon as a few loans were made on wheat stored under the 1940 wheat loan programs the local price rose several cents a bushel and remained stabilized at the higher level until the speculative jump in prices accompanying the outbreak of the war.

Those who were able to store the wheat because of the loan profited to the extent of 25 or 30 cents per bushel from the later higher prices which have prevailed in part because of the operation of the farm program, and in part from war and weather factors.

## FEDERAL RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

Income taxes accounted for 38 percent of the receipts of the Federal Government in 1939. Miscellaneous internal revenue taxes provided 12 percent; Social Security taxes, 11 percent; Tobacco taxes, 10 percent; Alcohol taxes 10 percent; Manufacturers' excise taxes, 7 percent; Customs receipts, 6 percent; and all other receipts, 6 percent.

Twenty-nine percent of the total Federal expenditures in 1939 was used for unemployment relief, 12 percent was used for national defense, and another 12 percent for public works. Interest on the public debt used 10 percent; Social Security, 9 percent; Legislative, judicial, and civil establishments, 8 percent; Agricultural Adjustment and related programs, 8 percent; Veterans' pensions and benefits, 6 percent; debt retirement, 1 percent; and all other expenditures, 5 percent.

## FARMER-BUSINESSMEN MEETINGS HELD IN MAINE

A series of farmer-businessmen meetings were held in Maine last month. Community committeemen assumed the chief responsibility for getting the guests to the meeting, county committeemen presided at the meetings and explained the significance of the farm program to the county, and a member of the State committee discussed the State and national aspects of the farm problem and the farm program. Opportunity was provided for questions and discussion.

Dinners were a feature of all the Maine meetings and equal success was found in noon and evening meetings. The plan under which each committeeman personally invited a business or professional man as his guest and personally escorted him to the meeting seemed to bring the best results.

The meetings in Maine were well attended with the largest one held in Aroostook county, where 80 out of the 95 community committeemen attended and in extreme cases drove close to 100 miles each way to escort their businessmen guests to the event.



# "VANISHING LANDS"

Two English scientists, R. O. Whyte and G. V. Jacks, have recently published a book called *Vanishing Lands* in which they have assembled an impressive world-wide picture of land waste -- modern as well as ancient. These Englishmen remind us that we in this country are exceptionally fortunate in that we still have a wealth of resources worth preserving; that we have a sufficient education and intelligence to do the job; and that -- most important of all -- we have devised and set in action, through Federal and State and local cooperation, new forms of democratic organization to meet the task.

## HEW TO THE LINE

"Hold down increased potato plantings in 1940. That seems to be the consensus of opinion of thinking potato growers here in the northeast. There is pressure in some areas for increased potato allotments this year, but the granting of such allotments would not be for the best interest of the industry at large. The present acreage of some 3,074,300 seems adequate to meet all domestic requirements, with due allowance made for any unfavorable factors and possibility of increased consumption. It would seem good judgment to hold down plantings in line with the past two seasons." -- *Editorial from New England Homestead.*

### NUMBER OF FARMS IN THE AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS NORTHEAST REGION BY STATES, 1936-40.

State	Number of Farms Participating					Estimated 1940
	1936	1937	1938	1939 <sup>1/</sup>		
Me.	6,588	10,648	14,744	17,146		21,981
N. H.	2,763	5,380	5,162	10,546		9,511
Vermont	5,702	6,430	8,620	13,002		14,546
Mass.	2,998	7,318	7,549	11,027		13,723
R. I.	142	514	588	1,000		1,267
Conn.	3,582	4,931	4,722	6,700		9,454
N. Y.	35,466	48,905	43,398	55,296		-
N. J.	3,795	11,558	11,757	12,162		13,918
Pa.	37,802	54,568	56,817	71,207		86,565
NER	98,838	150,252	153,357	198,086		
NER except New York	63,372	101,347	109,959	142,790		170,965

<sup>1/</sup> Preliminary.